(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has made available additional forces at the request of the Government of J&K.

Grants to manufacturers for solar water heating system

2298. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central grant is being given to municipalities for adopting solar water heating system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the grant;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Under the Solar Thermal Programme (STP) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, there is a provision to provide a one-time financial assistance to the municipalities/municipal corporations/local bodies which adopt and notify a modification in their building bye-laws making installation of solar assisted water heating systems mandatory in at least some categories of buildings. The quantum of the assistance is up to Rs. 5 lakhs for municipalities and Rs. 10 lakhs for municipal corporations. The grant is intended to support training, study tours, awareness creation, demonstration, preparation of brochures/manuals and creating infrastructure for implementing the mandatory provision. The grants are released only after the local body notifies the amended building bye-laws and submits a plan for utilizing the assistance.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Most municipal corporations have only recently begun to examine the question of amending their bulding bye-laws to make the installation of solar water heating systems mandatory. Only two corporations have formally notified such amendments. No corporation has yet availed of the grant from the Ministry. Hence there is no experience or feed back which suggests a need to increase the grant.